

OPTICAL CONTROLLER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for controlling access to, or interaction with, a variety of different types of devices is provided. The system includes a plurality of different lights that flash sequentially, the lights being distinguishable on the basis of color, location within a light pattern, or labeling. Alternately the system includes a single light that sequentially flashes different colors. The user enters data into the system by responding to particular lights in accordance with a predetermined light sequence. Alternately, the user enters data by responding to a particular light where each light corresponds to a predefined response. In general, a user responds to a particular light by triggering a response with the system's controller while the particular light is lit or before the next light in the sequence becomes lit. A user can trigger a response in a variety of ways, ranging from blinking an eye to pressing or otherwise operating a mechanical switch.